

166. 1980

10—Topeka Capital-Journal, Sunday, March 16, 1980

Bob Dole bows out of GOP nomination race

By MARTIN HAWVER
Legislative Writer

LAWRENCE — Sen. Bob Dole shut off his abortive bid for the Republican presidential nomination Saturday here, blaming his "weekend warrior" status while active in the Senate, and lack of media attention.

The Kansas Republican, who opened his GOP presidential bid in front of the fire station at Russell, his home town, blamed money, management and manpower woes for his poor showings in primary elections.

Speaking to a Lawrence Chamber of Commerce breakfast, Dole said of his candidacy, "It was a long shot from the start—but worth the effort."

"I harbored no illusions about the odds when I announced in Russell last May 14," Dole said.

He didn't announce his almost inevitable candidacy for re-election to the U.S. Senate, noting he makes his announcements in Russell, "and I know the media well enough that I would kill the story by piling one on top of another. I'd have to buy an ad for the announcement," he said.

"I offer no excuses. We had our problems," Dole said.

"But I have learned a few things about how we nominate and elect our presidents. I put them forward now in the hope that the candidates now in the race, as well as the media who are so influential in shaping perceptions of these candidates, will heed some disturbing warning signals."

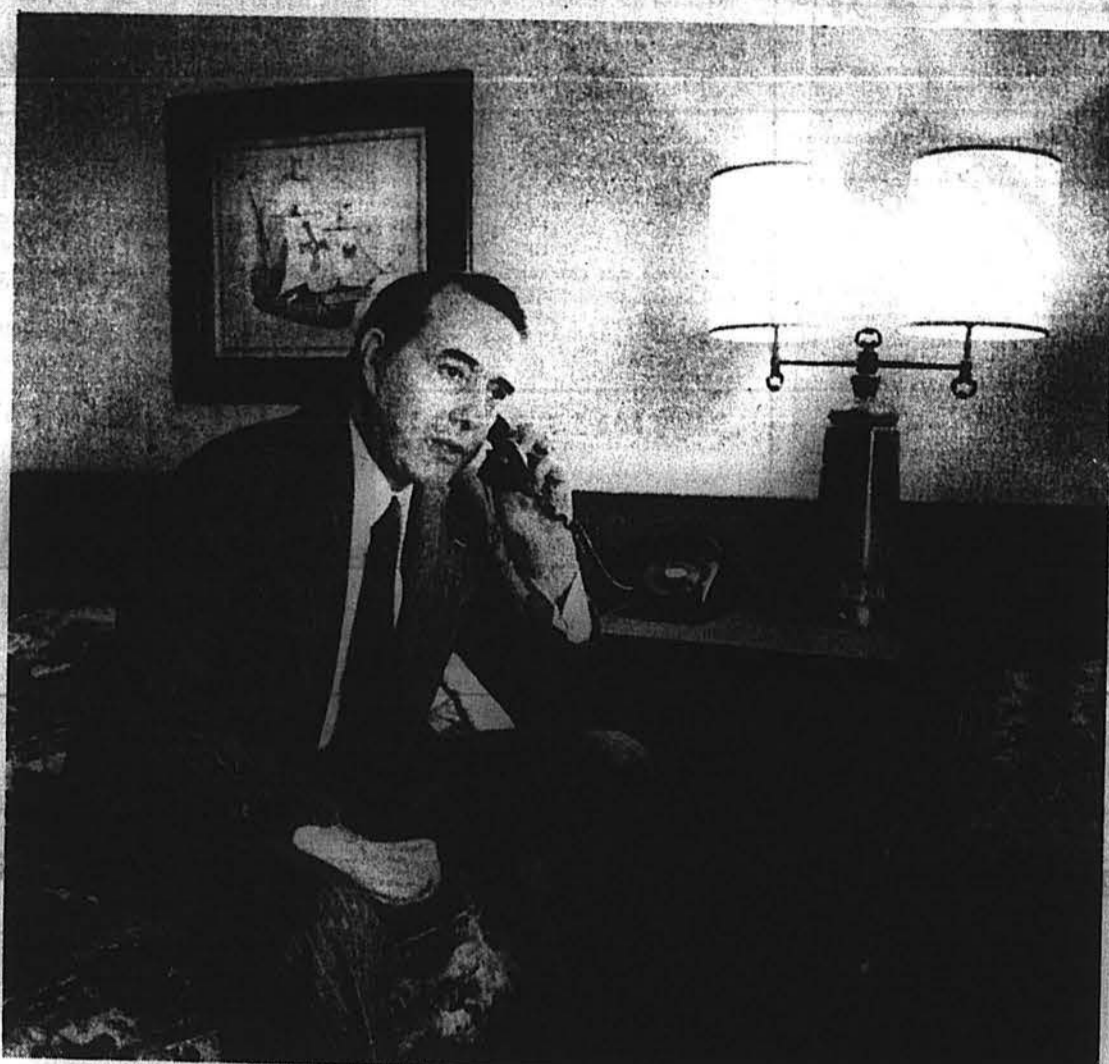
"While I sought to address issues which concerned all Americans vitally, media attention focused almost exclusively with how much money I'd raised, who my campaign manager was, or where I stood in the polls."

"Some (candidates) were written off before there was any real attempt by the media to focus on the candidates, the issues, their experiences," Dole said.

He repeated his theme of work in the Senate keeping him off the campaign trail, attributing his 95 percent voting record and four months as chief Republican manager of the windfall profits tax bill, to his "weekend warrior" status.

"And the media doesn't show up on the weekends. I don't fault them for that, especially if they knew I was coming," Dole said.

He never scored more than 1 percent of the vote in any primary he par-



After announcing his withdrawal from the presidential race Saturday morning in Lawrence, Sen. Bob Dole paused to call WESL, his hometown radio station in Russell, to tell newsmen there personally of his decision.

icipated in.

Dole said he doesn't believe his shot at the GOP presidential nomination indicated to Kansas voters he has abandoned the state, and said he doesn't believe his re-election chances were damaged.

"I don't see how it could have any impairment on my campaign for re-election. If I had abandoned Kansas a year and a half ago to run for the presidency, it would have. But I maintained

my work in the Senate. Look at the other candidates. Kennedy has fallen to less than 50 percent voting, and the other candidates, too, have left their jobs in Washington to campaign. I wouldn't do that," Dole said.

He said he considered resigning his Senate seat to campaign. "I just couldn't make that decision. I just couldn't decide whether I should, so I didn't," Dole said.

He also said he's not chosen a candidate to support for the nomination yet.

"I'm not sure. I just withdrew from the race. I did, however, support (Sen.) Howard Baker in Puerto Rico, and he lost there. I'm not sure that my endorsement is any great prize," he said.

Dole returned several times to the theme of money and media. "I feel like Chrysler. I have a good product to sell, but a cash flow problem."

"There just isn't enough consideration of the issues in this campaign, of the experience of the candidates."

"Here in Kansas, if you'll look at the newspapers the Sunday before election day, you'll see how the candidates stand on the issues — two days before the election, when everybody has their mind made up."

"We ought to be focusing on issues early on, not in the last two days, and we don't," Dole said.

He said he may consider attending the Detroit GOP national convention as a delegate from Kansas, a major change from 10 months ago in Russell, when he told his townspeople that he intended to attend the convention as the party's standard-bearer.

He said he held off announcing his resignation from the race "because there just didn't seem to be any hurry about it."

"I just waited for a speaking date in Kansas, and this was it," he said of his talk to about 150 persons who attended the "Eggs and Issues" breakfast.

Dole said he doesn't believe there is a vice presidential slot waiting for him in this year's convention.

"I think Ronald Reagan, who says he keeps getting younger, probably will be the front-runner into the convention," Dole said.

He noted after his speech that had he stayed in the campaign, he would be by default, No. 4 man in the race, and quipped, "To those candidates who have departed the campaign, and there are a number of them — the Senate is filling up again. I thank them for participating in the process."

Dole didn't linger long in the state. After his Lawrence appearance, he flew to another speaking engagement at Salina and returned to Washington.

2 Daily Courier-News, Monday, March 31, 1980

Dole urges voters to choose Reagan

By Lee Byrd
The Associated Press

Kansas Sen. Robert Dole, who once exhorted voters to make him president "if you want a younger Ronald Reagan," is now rooting for the elder one in an effort timed to bolster the Republican front-runner in Tuesday's farm-state primaries.

Dole turned up at Reagan's side Sunday night and declared to an audience in Overland Park, Kan., that it is time for the GOP to unite behind the 69-year-old former governor of California. "More than ever," said Dole, "grass-roots Republicans want Ronald Reagan."

He added that Reagan has "a virtual hammerlock on our party's nomination."

Rep. John B. Anderson, meanwhile, indicated he is closer than ever to offering himself as an independent alternative should Reagan head the GOP ticket and President Carter wins Democratic renomi-

nation. The Illinois Republican said on national television that many of his supporters "simply would be unhappy" with a Carter-Reagan choice, and "I am not going to let down the people who have put their faith and trust in me."

EVERY MAJOR candidate of both parties—except the president himself—focused on Wisconsin today. That state will choose 75 delegates to the Democratic national convention and 34 to the GOP convention in Tuesday's balloting. Kansas will pick 37 Democratic delegates and 32 Republicans.

Dole, who was President Gerald R. Ford's running mate in 1976 and folded his own campaign for the presidency two weeks ago, said that Reagan has "an impressive ability to attract independent and Democratic voters" and that "the issue ... is electability. Ronald Reagan can win."

-2-

A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE IN 1980

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR REPUBLICANS TO JUST CRITICIZE WHAT WE'RE AGAINST; WE MUST TELL THE VOTERS WHAT WE'RE FOR. TELL THEM WE'RE FOR LESS TAXATION AS AN INCENTIVE TO GREATER PRODUCTION. TELL THEM WE'RE FOR UNLEASHING THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO OVERCOME THE ENERGY CRISIS. TELL THEM WE'RE FOR A FARM POLICY THAT PROMISES A FAIR RETURN TO FARMERS AND FAIRNESS TO CONSUMERS.

AND, HAVING TOLD THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE WHAT WE'RE FOR, WE MUST GO FURTHER AND TELL THEM HOW WE CAN ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIVES. BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED IN THIS UNPREDICTABLE ELECTION YEAR, IT'S THAT PEOPLE ARE THIRSTY FOR LEADERSHIP THAT CAN PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THEIR PRESSING PROBLEMS. SLOGANS AREN'T ENOUGH; ONLY WELL-REASONED RESPONSES WILL WIN THE CONFIDENCE OF VOTERS IN 1980.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1980

"THE OCCASION IS PILED HIGH WITH DIFFICULTY, AND WE MUST RISE WITH THE OCCASION. WE MUST DISENTHRALL OURSELVES -- AND THEN WE SHALL SAVE OUR COUNTRY."

SO SPOKE THE FATHER OF OUR PARTY IN A TIME OF GRAVE CRISIS AND NATIONAL UNCERTAINTY. AND LINCOLN'S WORDS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE RELEVANT.

FOR 1980 IS A YEAR PILED HIGH WITH DIFFICULTY. WHEREVER WE TURN, WE SEEM BESET WITH PROBLEMS. BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU AND I TO CRITICIZE THE FAILURES OF THOSE WHO HOLD NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS KNOW THAT MUCH OF OUR CURRENT DISSATISFACTION IS SPIRITUAL IN NATURE. THEY KNOW, AND WE CAN NEVER FORGET, THAT BEFORE WE REGAIN OUR GREATNESS AS A NATION, WE MUST FIRST REGAIN OUR SELF-RESPECT.